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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 20 | Humidity 92% Generally cloudy sky and rain Sensex 58,115 | Nifty 17,340 | Gold 51,240 | Silver 58,263 | Dollar 78.95 | Euro 81.06 | GBP 96.91

Focus on safe disposal, recycling of expired EV batteries as public, private vehicles transition from fossil fuels to electric cells

BATTERY, CHARGED

'Consumer responsible for depositing used EV cell with recycler'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Touted as a timely step towards a greener future, the transition to electric vehicles is said to be the environment-friendly alternative to fossil fuel guzzling automobiles. EVs aid to minimise toxic emissions released into the atmosphere.

Nevertheless, experts warned that if batteries used in electric vehicles are not managed or disposed of properly, it can lead to hazardous consequences for the environment.

"Every electric vehicle owner should take responsibility for recycling the used batteries. Improper disposal of EV batteries can be a hazard to the environment. The batteries contain lead and other heavy metals which are extremely toxic and harmful," environmentalist Dr AN Yellappa Reddy told Bangalore Mirror. Last year, the Bangalore Metropolitan

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Metals used in EV batteries are rare; gathering these requires deep mining. If we reuse them, it will be sustainable...

— Dr AN Yellappa Reddy, environmentalist

Root Cause

'Revised proposal quotes Rs 5.5 crore for tree survey; it has to be reapproved'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The long-awaited tree census in Bengaluru city to be conducted by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) is yet to begin. The project is now stuck at the MoU stage for over three months.

According to a source at the Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK), the varsity has revised the proposal multiple times in the last three months and submitted the final version almost a month ago. While the GKVK team is all set to get started, there has been no further intimation from the BBMP.

According to the process, the forest wing of the BBMP has to sign a memorandum of understanding with the department of forestry, GKVK, for the survey to begin.

"Every time we reach out to the BBMP, officials say the proposal is with the commissioner for approval. The first proposal was submitted three months ago; we have reworked it multiple times. The final version was submitted almost a month ago, but we have not heard back yet," said a source from the university.

"We are waiting for a green signal from the BBMP. Once the fund is released, we will start the work immediately," added the source. Officials from the BBMP's forest department said that while the civic body

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

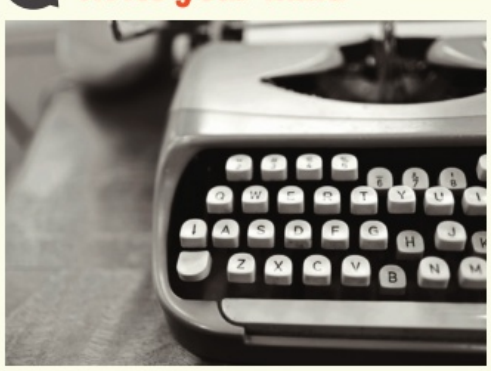
01 Blockchain hackathon

CoinSwitch, India's leading Crypto investing app, in association with Startup Karnataka is organizing a blockchain hackathon, building future cities, to recognize and stimulate blockchain-based solutions to everyday problems
When: August 5-6
Where: The Lalit Ashok Hotel, Kumarakrupa Road
Tickets: Free

02 Let's cook Chinese

Ever wanted to try your hand at making those delicious Chinese rolls and momos you love so much? If your answer is yes, then do not miss this event.
When: August 24, 10;30 onwards
Where: Online, Zoom meeting
Tickets: allevents.in

03 Write your mind



Here is a chance for you to learn how to pour out your heart on a piece of paper. Sit around with like-minded people and flaunt your writing skills.
When: August 2, 7:30 pm onwards
Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
Tickets: allevents.in

Walk along Agara Lake to spot birds & trees

Children volunteers and NGO take kids from underprivileged backgrounds on biodiversity-tracking walk

Y Maheswara Reddy
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Children along with the volunteers and birder JN Prasad at Agara Lake on Saturday

It was a Saturday morning well spent at Agara Lake. Children from underprivileged backgrounds got the chance to connect to their neighbourhood lake and understand the biodiversity in the area -- courtesy children volunteers Ishita and Ishan Jain and the ActionAid Association.

Also at the walk was a special invitee -- JN Prasad, a bird-watcher from JP Nagar. Prasad told the children about the more than 130 species of birds in the area around the lake. He also pointed out how some of these birds are on the brink of extinction.

The kids walked from gates 1-3 -- a distance of 1 km -- all the while with their eyes peeled out for birds and plants along the walk. Prasad told the children that once Bengaluru was a city of lakes with more than 1,000 lakes, but now the number has reduced to 200.

The children could identify two different kinds of kites -- Black Kite & Brahminy Kite, with Prasad making them draw the birds' tails which are distinct. He explained the scientific names of birds, plants, and trees. He also shared information on the medicinal use of some plants and the importance of biodiversity within the lake ecosystem.

"The walk organised by the ActionAid Association was very useful to children. They asked many right questions about birds and trees. More such lake walks should be organised in future to create awareness among the children," said Prasad.

> **These engagements with communities help in creating awareness and help them to appreciate the biodiversity within and around lakes**
> – Raghavendra B Pachhapur, ActionAid

When children volunteers Ishita and Ishan Jain were oriented on lake protection and conservation back in March, they wanted more of their age group to see what they had. They were motivated and with their parents' support, they raised donations exclusively to conduct a lake walk for children from marginalised backgrounds as they don't get opportunities. They also prepared a poster on the lake ecosystem for easy understanding. "I am happy with my children Ishita and Ishan helping children visit Agara Lake. Both conducted online craft classes for underprivileged children during the pandemic,' said their mother Anuradha Jain.

Ishan and Ishita, in association with Prabodhan, an NGO working with children from deprived communities, selected children aged 12 years and above to participate in the walk. "It was useful to create awareness among the children about the environment," said Osmita Gandhi, founder of Prabodhan.

Raghavendra B Pachhapur, Programme Manager, ActionAid, said that they have started conducting lake walks, butterfly walks and bird watching at different lakes in 2019. "These engagements with communities help in creating awareness and help them to appreciate the biodiversity within and around lakes. All these activities encourage communities to participate in lake protection and conservation. We would continue to engage children on environmental issues and plan more programs involving children from all sections of the society," said Pachhapur.

City's covid tally doubles in July

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Since the decline of the third wave of covid in February 2022, cases have seen a rise again in July with the cases almost doubling compared to June (an increase of seven times compared to May).

By the end of July, Bengaluru reported 30,969 new cases against 16,216 in June. However, the cases were not severe in terms of fatality as June had reported four deaths while it was five fatalities in July.

The worrying factor was the test positivity rate (TRP), which breached nine per cent (on July 23 and 28). Health department officials said that in the earlier waves, the government had imposed several restrictions when the TPR breached five per cent. However, lower hospitalisation and lesser severity of the cases might be the reason for not imposing any new restrictions.

On July 31, 54 people were admitted to hospitals, with one patient on ventilator and six in ICU. There are 27 active clusters in the city. Though the Covid Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been suggesting the government impose a penalty for not wearing masks, the government has made masks only as an advisory. With 8,302 active cases, Bengaluru had the highest number of active cases in the country among top cities as Delhi's active cases were 3,844, Mumbai's 1,797 and Chennai 4,357.

Like the last two waves, the Bellandur ward has the highest covid cases with 76 people testing positive daily, followed by Kadugodi 43, Doddanekkundi 42, HSR Layout 38 and Varthur 27.

18.67 lakh yet to take the second jab

Meanwhile, 18,67,274 people are yet to take a second shot of the covid vaccine in Karnataka. Many are complaining that despite vaccination, there have been cases of breakthrough infections being reported.

Minister of State for Health, Dr Bharati Pawar in Lok Sabha said, "As per emerging evidence, immunity acquired from natural covid infection or vaccines is not absolute and reinfections following natural COVID-19 infections as well as vaccine breakthrough infections are not uncommon. As per a study, involving 1112 vaccinated individuals (with at least one dose of either Covaxin or Covishield) by Arora G, breakthrough infections were observed in 7.91 per cent of the sample population. Out of 88 post-vaccination SARS CoV-2 breakthrough infections, 90.91 per cent were symptomatic cases and the remaining were asymptomatic."

Among symptomatic breakthrough infections 31.25 per cent and 25 per cent were mild and severe infections, respectively. According to the WHO, a vast majority of infections are observed in unvaccinated populations, and if breakthrough infections occur in vaccinated persons, they are in most cases less severe than those seen in unvaccinated persons, added Pawar.

End to phone-snatchers' run

Police stations told to register FIRs if they receive complaint on snatching of phones

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TWEETS @Bellie_Mirror

People talking on the phone in busy areas such as Majestic station are easy targets

After seeing that a majority of mobile snatching cases are being recorded as e-lost cases at many police stations in the city, the top cop has taken a strong stand. City police commissioner CH Prathap Reddy has directed all police stations to ensure that FIRs invoking robbery are registered in cases of phone-snatching.

So far, when anybody walks into a police station to complain about their mobile phone being snatched, the police check with the victims how the incident enfolded and if they learn that there were no CCTVs or eye-witnesses around, the victims are coerced to file an e-lost complaint. The victims would have to do that to get an acknowledgement so that they can get a new SIM card and a phone connection.

"We are keeping a close tab on such cases and are also verifying with the first responders' communication at our police control room - Namma Dial-112. If the victim calls the police control room and states that his/her phone has been snatched away - it's a recorded fact there, then we make sure that the jurisdictional police register a robbery case under IPC section 392 - punishment for robbery after the victim approaches the said police station with a complaint," said the top cop.

However, as many habitual offenders are well aware that phone-snatching cases are not taken up as robbery cases, such instances were on an upswing in the city. Emboldened mobile thieves roam around in auto-rickshaws in and around city railway station and Majestic bus stand targeting victims.

> **We are keeping a close tab on such cases and are also verifying with the first responders' communication at our police control room - Namma Dial-112**
>
> –CH Prathap Reddy, City Police Commissioner

A 25-year-old software engineer was the latest victim of a gang of four robbers in Cottonpet who were lurking in an auto-rickshaw in search of a victim. Shivam Parashara had gone for a project training in Mysuru and had returned by train. He got down at the city railway station and was looking for a cab on his phone pacing near the exit gate of the city railway station when an auto-rickshaw came very close to him. There were four people inside the auto including the driver, one of whom snatched Parashara's mobile phone. When the victim ran with the auto, the men pulled him into the auto where he was beaten up.

When Parashara fought back, the driver increased the speed and tried to push him out on the road. The other assailants also tried to steal his wallet. "They tried to push my brother out of the speeding auto, but he clung on, but the third time, he was pushed out. He fell on the road, fracturing his right hand. A crowd had gathered near the spot and a few even managed to chase the auto-rickshaw and nab two of the accused who were later handed over to the police," said the victim's brother.

The cops have registered a case under IPC sections 392 - robbery, 394 - voluntarily causing hurt in committing robbery 397 - robbery or dacoity, with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt, and are questioning the two arrested men to ascertain details about their gang. The phone also has been recovered.

In a similar case in the City Market police limits, a 23-year-old manager of a private firm from Coimbatore had come to the City Market to buy some materials. He was walking as he spoke over his phone when all of a sudden, three men accosted him and one of them snatched his phone and passed it to another who took to heels.

While Prakash raised an alarm, the other men too started to run and Prakash started chasing them, but they managed to escape. But by the time Prakash reached home, his relatives informed him that they had received a phone call from the City Market police station that they had caught the two mobile phone snatchers, and also recovered the phone. The next day, Prakash approached the cops and filed a formal complaint.

HC reserves verdict on bail plea of IAS officer

The High Court of Karnataka has reserved its judgement on a bail petition of IAS officer and former Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner J Manjunath.

The judgement is expected within two days.

He was arrested by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) police for allegedly accepting Rs 5 lakh as bribe in his office.

The case turned sensational after a High Court judge, hearing the bail plea of a deputy tahsildar, an accused in the case, summoned the service records of the ACB chief and the IAS officer.

Manjunath was arrested days after the judge Justice HP Sandesh, in the deputy tahsildar's bail petition, asked why senior officers were not charged in the case.

> **Manjunath was arrested by ACB for allegedly accepting Rs 5 lakh as bribe**

Manjunath was arrested on July 4 and his bail plea before the Special Court, hearing the case, was rejected on July 11. He approached the High Court where Justice K Natarajan heard the petition.

The counsel on his behalf has argued that he was falsely implicated in the case after the High Court's comments by way of an additional report.

Arguing for Manjunath on Monday, senior advocate H S Chandramouli said a file was pending before Manjunath, and it was not cleared as there were thousands of pending files, and the alleged bribe was paid and collected by others without the knowledge of the Deputy Commissioner.

The deputy tahsildar working in the Deputy Commissioner's office and others are also accused in the case. The bribe was allegedly collected to give a favourable verdict in a land dispute. **PTI**

Hurry up with NPKL: Assembly panel prods BDA

Assembly Petitions Panel to monitor work at layout on regular basis

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Nada Prabhu Kempegowda Layout

After a six-year delay, finally there is hope for site allottees of Nada Prabhu Kempegowda Layout. The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will no more be able to push the deadline under one pretext or the other, as the work is going to be closely monitored. The Assembly Petitions Committee, headed by MLA Appachu Ranjan, has decided to monitor the work at the layout on a regular basis.

The Rajajinagar MLA and a member of the Assembly Petitions Committee, has been assigned to interact with BDA officials and site allottees on the progress of the work at the layout. "I have been assigned to meet and interact with BDA engineers and site allottees on the progress of works for providing basic amenities at the layout. A meeting will be held with BDA officials in a week," said MLA Suresh Kumar.

At a recent meeting convened by the Assembly Petitions Committee, BDA officials were taken to task for their inaction on speeding up infrastructure work. The Committee took exception to BDA's advertisement omitting the NPKL, and giving a commitment on the timeline of completion. It is believed the BDA offered to issue a corrigendum but the Committee preferred expedition of the completion of the work.

The Committee members expressed concern over the BDA officials demanding the site allottees who want to construct buildings to file affidavits instead of fulfilling the assurance given when the committee members visited the layout on June 2. The BDA officials assured the Committee members that they would not ask for affidavits but would inform them in 15 days about the tentative dates by which they would provide minimum infrastructure like water, UGD, electricity.

The BDA officials have also assured the Committee members that they would not levy penalty on allottees at the time of issuing the absolute sale deed for not building houses within five years from the date of allotment.

Around 5,000 sites were allotted by the BDA in 2016 and another 5,000 sites in March 2018 at the Nada Prabhu Kempegowda Layout.

Nada Prabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum secretary M Ashok said the BDA officials had promised to come with a plan of action to complete the work. "I hope the BDA officials will provide basic infrastructure at the layout within six months. It will facilitate the construction of buildings here," said Ashok.

> **BDA began preparing a plan to complete the work only after we approached the Committee**
>
> –Surya Kiran, NPKL Open Forum

Surya Kiran, spokesperson of Nada Prabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum, said the BDA claims sites were formed to serve the needy but it did not even have commitment to complete infrastructure work. "Our requests were unheard. The BDA is not bothered about Chief Minister Basavaraja Bommai's written statement issued in February 2022 and it does not take RERA directions seriously," said Surya Kiran.

Rain and Pain

Bangalore Mirror readers take us to areas where a day's rain caused the infrastructure to crumble and threw life out of gear

Splash at Abbigere

If you are planning to go on Abbigere Main Road on a two-wheeler, then get ready to be splashed. The road connects Abbigere to various places including Singapura, Yelahanka, Hesaraghatta and Kempegowda International Airport Road. It was in a good condition until the BWSSB dug it up to lay pipelines.

A new swimming pool at 15th Cross Service Road

Residents of the 15th cross Service Road opposite Cadbam often wonder if the road is a pool, whenever it rains. The flooded road is difficult and dangerous for vehicles to wade through.

Bangalore Mirror Reader says, "Despite complaints and requests, this road has not been fixed for the last several years. We have complained more than 100 times with the BBMP's major roads engineer. Hope we are saved by the BBMP."

The road has been in an unmotorable condition ever since.

Shivakumar who travels on the road regularly said, "If you are driving a car, then there is a constant fear that vehicle will be damaged while manoeuvring the craters and a biker is always in the constant fear of falling and don't know when a vehicle next to him will splash the dirty water."

Govindaraja Nagar misery

Recently, many houses in the Govindaraja Nagar area were flooded due to rainfall. With the Meteorological department warning of heavy rainfall for the whole week, the residents are clueless about how they can prevent water from entering their houses.

A BM reader sent photographs to highlight the bad condition of Govindaraja Nagar.

The residents say that drainage has been blocked nearby and as a result, the rainwater could not flow. Whenever there is heavy rainfall the water flows from the blocked drain to the nearby houses. With many roads being at a higher elevation, the water naturally flows into the houses.

Residents say that they can do very little to stop water from entering houses. Loss of precious items and lack of sleep are some of the many issues they have been facing.

The residents demand quick action from the BBMP.

Jayanagar's sludgy road

Jayanagar, once known in the city for its planned infrastructure now seems to be competing with other localities for being one of the worst areas in the city. For example, 10th D Main Road in the first block was dug up by the BWSSB and since then residents have been waiting for it to be redone.

It has been 10 months and residents have no clue as to how many more months, if not years, they need to wait for the road to be fixed. The dug-up road turns sludgy during rainfall making it a nightmare for motorists.

Watch your step on Convent Road

Please watch your steps when you walk on the pavement as you never know when you will fall, thanks to the infrastructure created by BBMP.

A Bangalore Mirror reader shared his sad experience, and said, "On July 30 night, it was raining at 11 pm. I was walking with my wife on Convent Road. The pavement narrows between Gul Mohur and Brigade Apartments. This section is also covered by a manhole cover. I stepped on it and it opened like a trapdoor and I fell into the sewer. The water was waist deep. I somehow pulled myself out. Fortunately, I was not injured. The cover had not been locked. I was lucky, what happens if it is a child or an elderly person."

Different road, same woes faced by commuters

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Commuting on Bannerghatta Road becomes a Herculean task every time it rains as several parts of the road get flooded.

The patch of road starting from the Puttenahalli signal along with other patches gets flooded even if it rains for a few minutes. After Sunday's showers, the road was flooded and commuters were stuck there for hours.

The commuters said the road was asphalted recently, but the condition has not improved.

Kavitha Reddy, a commuter, said,

Rainwater entered in the shops nearby on Bannerghatta Road

"Every time it rains, the road gets flooded. I agree that Bengaluru rains can sometimes be intense but yesterday the rain was only for 10 minutes. With such little amount of rain, the road is getting flooded, what will happen when there is heavy rainfall? Yesterday, I was stuck there for two hours."

The commuters informed Bangalore Mirror that because of the flooding the traffic had to be diverted which caused traffic congestion as vehicles going both ways were using only one road.

They also said that the food delivery valets were putting objects on the road where there was an open manhole which was covered with water on the flooded road to warn the commuters.

Ashok G, another commuter, said, "There was so much water on the road that it was difficult to take my bike. It is very dangerous for all the commuters. The police had asked us to use the other way and there was total confusion. There was traffic congestion for hours and it was difficult to use that road as well. All this because of just 10 minutes of rain."

Even the shopkeepers had a hard time because the rainwater had entered their shops.

Manju K, a tea shop owner, said, "Yesterday my shop was filled with water. More than half the day went in cleaning the shop, I had kept my cups on the floor and all that got spoiled. This happens every time it rains. The metro work is also almost over; the authorities are not doing anything to make the situation better."

The BBMP officials said that they would look into the matter and start working soon.

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Garbage trouble
Ramamurthy Nagar

No one has picked up the garbage in the last six months from the 2nd A cross, Ambedkar Nagar.

Lights off
Vasanth Nagar

Street lamps are switched on even after 10:30 in the morning on Race Course Road.

Pavement pester
Cunningham Crescent Road

The footpath on Cunningham Crescent Road to the Reserve Bank of India quarters is in terrible shape.

Territorial row: Auto driver books taxi ride to threaten rider

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The animosity between auto-drivers and bike taxi riders seems to be coming to a head. After auto drivers having protested against the bike taxi operations that they say eat into their income, now a case of an auto driver 'threatening and extorting' a bike taxi rider after having booked a ride has cropped up.

Rupesh Kumar, a 25-year-old bike-taxi rider working with an aggregator, and a resident of Dr Ambedkar Nagar near Yeshwantpur railway station, has filed a complaint with the HSR Layout police station against an unknown auto-driver for the aforementioned actions.

The auto driver is said to have booked a ride on Kumar's bike taxi, but when Kumar went to the spot to pick him up, the auto driver threatened him by snatching away his bike keys, and demanding that he stop plying the bike taxi in that route from then on. Kumar said the auto driver also extorted Rs 500 from him.

> **He then searched in my pockets and not only took away Rs 500 that I had, but also he took away my phone, looked for the taxi-riding app and deleted it**

Kumar noted down the auto-rickshaw's number and filed a complaint with the cops who have booked a case of extortion, criminal intimidation, intentional insult and wrongful restraint against the accused and are in the process of identifying him in an identification parade.

In his complaint, Kumar stated that he was near Yeshwanthpur Railway station, when he got an alert on his app that someone had booked a ride from HSR Layout. Kumar hurried to HSR Layout where the location was and found a man waiting there.

It was around 4 pm when Kumar arrived at the spot. The man snatched his bike keys and questioned him why he was plying on that route. When Kumar replied that he was just doing his job, the man is said to have abused and threatened him. "He then searched in my pockets and not only took away Rs 500 that I had, but also he took away my phone, looked for the taxi-riding app and deleted it," Kumar told BM.

After confirming that the man was an auto-driver and after noting down his auto's registration number, Kumar filed a complaint. "The auto-driver has been summoned to the police station after which further legal proceedings will follow," said a senior police officer.

For the want of basic hygiene

Parents complain private schools not taking measures to ensure kids are safe in time of covid, other illnesses

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PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

Schools had taken measures soon after they reopened but they are not as diligent anymore; BM had reported about parents' plea for online/hybrid classes

Parents have been complaining that schools in Bengaluru do not have proper hygiene facilities as required during the covid-19 pandemic. Bhavna S has a nine-year-old daughter who attends a private school in Jakkur. "When the school reopened, we requested them to make provision for handwash as hand hygiene is very important during the pandemic. Despite repeated requests, the school outrightly refused to make necessary arrangements. They told us that younger kid's waste handwash and so they cannot provide it."

She asked how the government could help the parents if the schools in the city are not even bothered about students' safety and basic hygiene. "Parents shouldn't be made to choose between their kids' safety and education... This also makes us doubt if the school is taking care of other necessities like regular sanitisation or not. As a parent, we are always worried about our children's health these days," she added.

Increasing school fees has also left the parents fuming. They say that it is unfair that the students are being deprived of basic hygiene facilities even after their having paid such a large amount as fees.

"Private schools charge illegal amounts as fee and there is no regulation over that. People who choose to pay so much for their children should at least get basic facilities. I send my children to school with sanitiser and ask them to wear masks at all times but there is no responsibility from the school's side," Vijay Kumar, another parent told Bangalore Mirror. "They are not bothered about the children's health, especially in this weather when kids get sick so easily. I have requested the school through a number of emails for handwash, sanitiser, and social distancing training for the students. But the covid rules and guidelines are on paper only," Kumar said. He pointed out that for some activities the school makes the children sit on the floor which is very unhygienic. "Sometimes the children sit on the floor and have their meals. Firstly, the washrooms are dirty and the children wear the same shoes and then sit on the floor to have food. Especially during a pandemic, this must be avoided," Kumar added.

Bangalore Mirror

DOUBLE WHAMMY: COVID SCARE & FLU BLUES

Parents want online mode of learning back

Schools see dip in attendance of 20 per cent in pre-primary and 10 per cent in secondary

We conduct remedial classes for students to learn the portions missed by them

...Or a shift to hybrid

> **Parents shouldn't be made to choose between their kids' safety and education...**

As Bangalore Mirror had previously reported, due to the poor facilities in schools, parents are now pushing for an online or hybrid mode of schooling again.

Another parent told Bangalore Mirror that kids are getting sick in groups in some of the schools. "Two weeks back, in my daughter's class, seven students got sick at once. We got a mail that it isn't covid but safety measurements are being taken but the classes are still going on regularly. Even if it is the common cold or viral, hygiene is still very important for children," he said.

IN BRIEF

Document verification deferred

Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) has postponed the document verification process for the Under Graduate Common Entrance Test (UGCET-2022) which was scheduled to begin on Friday, August 5. New dates haven't been released yet but will be announced shortly, as per the public notice released by KEA.

This year, both document verification and counseling will be held online, as Higher Education Minister CN Ashwath Narayan announced on Saturday. The decision comes in the wake of ongoing protests by KCET repeaters. The students are protesting against the KEA as it has not included PUC score in the case of the students of the 2020-21 batch which has resulted in a huge dip in the ranks.

5G auction: Record ₹1.5L cr bids

India's biggest ever auction of telecom spectrum received a record Rs 1.5 lakh crore of bids, with Mukesh Ambani's Jio cornering nearly half of all the airwaves sold with an Rs 88,078 crore bid.

Richest Indian Gautam Adani's group, whose entry in the auction was billed by some as another flash point in the rivalry with Ambani, paid Rs 212 crore for 400 MHz, or less than one per cent of all spectrum sold, in a band that is not used for offering public telephony services.

Telecom tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal's Bharti Airtel made a successful bid of Rs 43,084 crore, while Vodafone Idea Ltd bought spectrum for Rs 18,799 crore.

Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said of the 72,098 MHz of spectrum offered across 10 bands, 51,236 MHz, or 71 per cent, was sold.

Adani group bought spectrum in the 26 GHz band, which is suitable for setting up a private network for end-to-end communication, in six states -- Gujarat, Mumbai, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. **PTI**

Apex court refuses to interfere with HC order on jumbo relocation

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to interfere with the Karnataka High Court order which had found nothing wrong with the relocation of some elephants from Karnataka to trust in Gujarat.

In its order passed in June this year, the high court had said it saw no reason as to why the 153 elephants in custody and care of the trust should be disturbed by anyone especially when these animals are getting good care and facilities and seem to be integrated and well adjusted.

The plea before the high court had sought its intervention in the matter of transfer of some elephants from Karnataka to the trust and had sought a direction to the trust to send all the elephants back to the respective forest department of the states from where they were obtained.

The high court had given certain directions to the trust, including that elephants that are in its custody and care shall be there till the end of their respective lives and they will continue to be given the same care and facilities as specified before it. **PTI**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I Prajwal N S/O, E Nagendra R/o #2420, 1st Cross, E Block, 9th Main, Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore 560092 have changed my name to Prajwal Nagendra

I, TAJODDIN S/o. Mohammed Rafiq, Residing at No.146, 9th Cross, Mangamanapalya Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560068 hereby state that my name is wrongly mentioned in SSLC marks card as TAZODDIN and DOB is 23.05.1996 but my correct name is TAJODDIN and DOB is 16.01.1996 only vide affidavit dated 28.07.2022 sworn before notary Mamatha N.K, B.lore.

I, Anitha D/o Changeera Mallappa, R/o No.4 Mohana Nivasa, Brindavanam, Horamavu Agara, Bangalore-43 Decalre that the name of my father has been wrongly written as Ponahallli Rajendra Prasad in my passport No. E3714277, whereas the correct name of my father is Changeera Mallappa which may be amended accordingly and for all purposes.

I, MOHAMMED AKSAMULLA MADNI S/o Mohammed Vaseemulla residing at #46, old bamboo Bazar, Mir obaidulla road, Shivajinagar, B'lore-51 have changed my name to MOHAMMED AKSAMULLA vida affidavit dated 29.7.2022 sworn before notary S.I Balaguru, Bangalore

I, Khaleel Ahamad Nadaf and Sufiya Nadaf , residing at: 22202, Tower 22, Prestige Lakeside Habitat, Gunjur village, Varthur Hobli, B'lore-87, have changed our minor Daughter's name from BABY AARA to AARA NADAF, vide affidavit dtd 01/08/22 before Notary B. SESHAGIRI, B'lore

I Mayur S/o Mukund Muttagi R/o 303, KayArr Providence, Harlur main road, bangalore 560102 have changed my name to Mayur Mutgi for all purposes

I, Padamalaxmi Gulab Mudkana, W/o. Raghavendra Hiremath G R/a. #25, 13th Main Road, Nataraja Layout, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, B'lore-560078, have changed my name to Kritika Hiremath, vide affidavit dtd: 31.07.2022, before Notary B.M. Chandrashekar

I, SUFIYA KHALEEL AHAMAD NADAF R/a 22202, tower 22, Prestige Lakeside Habitat, Gunjur Village, varthur hobli, Blore 87. I have changed my name to SUFIYA NADAF. vide affidavit dtd 01-08-22 sworn before notary B. Sheshagiri B'lore

I Syed Manazir Hussain Basheer Ahmed S/O, Syed Basheer Ahmed R/o Old No 72/1 New No 72/3 3rd Cross 1st Main Road Near Conservancy Lane Chamarajpet Bangalore 560018 have changed my name to Syed Manazir Hussain

I Ramakrishna Shivakumar R/o No 223, Vakil Garden City, Thalagattapura, Kanakapura Main Road, Bengaluru-560062 have changed my minor son's name from Yellamandala Daiwik to Daiwik Yanamandalla

I, Shrenik Jambu Hazare, Son of Jambu Bhau Hajare have changed my name to Shrenik Hajare vide affidavit dated 30-07-2022 sworn before notary B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore - 560034.

I Yellamandala Nichita D/O, Ramakrishna Shivakumar R/o No 223, Vakil Garden City, Thalagattapura, Kanakapura Main Road, Bengaluru-560062 have changed my name to Nichitha Yanamandalla

I, Jithendra Babu J, R/o #193; 2nd Cross; Muninanjappa Layout; Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru - 560016, have Changed my name to Jithendra Babu

I Madhusudhan S/O, Narayana R/o No.20/21, 2nd Cross, Basavanpura Road, K R Puram, Bengaluru 560036 have changed my name to Madhusudan Kandula for all purposes.

I, Anandraj Ganpatraj R/O-No.66,8th cross,1st main, S.R.Nagar, B'lore-27 changed my name to Anand Raj before notary A.C.Subbu Swamy 29.7.2022.

I, GURPREET SINGH GROVER R/a A1002, Vajram Tiara, Avalahalli Post, Yelahanka, B'lore-64. I have changed my name to GURPREET SINGH. Vide affi davit dtd 30-07-22, Sworn before notary C. Sharada B'lore.

I, Fadiya D/o Abdulla Anas Ruknuddin R/o No 2 Flat No 4 B 3rd Cross Ramakka Block K G Byderhalli Chinnappa Garden, Bangalore 560046 have changed my name to Fadiya Ruknuddin for all purposes

I, Ashok. Kh R/o No 869, MB Colony, Yeshwanthpur, B'lore, 560022 have changed my minor daughter's name from Dhrithi Bhat Kaup Ashok to Dhrithi Bhat for all purposes.

I Raghu Nagaraja S/O, Nagarajan N R/o No 25, Maruthi Nilaya, 19th D Cross, 7th Main, Btm 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560076 have changed my name to Raghu Nagarajan

LOST & FOUND

I,MRS.VIJAYA.H, at #35, 3rd main, Byraveshwaranagar, Nagarabhavi main road,Bangalore- 560072. I have lost/ misplaced my original sale deed Doc bearing No. 8365/2005-06. We also lodged a police complaint vide complaint GSC no:0281890/2022 dated 01.08.2022. If found please contact: 9964206497 or inform to the nearest Police Station.

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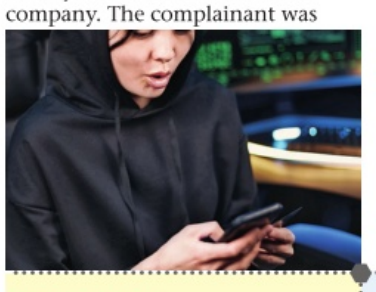
Age of cyber crime

We take a look at top 10 online cons that are doing the rounds

As the kinds of cyber crimes in the city increase, the City Police have listed top 10 cyber crimes reported here. We pull out some instances of the gullible falling prey to cyber criminals, who are perpetually coming up with new cons. Take a look at these examples for everyone to keep their ears, eyes and minds open if they come across any such incident. —Sridhar Vivan

OUCH VOUCHERS

City police suggest people be wary of fake vouchers offered online. Citing a recent case, the police said, "A complainant received a random message stating that he had won a voucher worth Rs 9 lakh from a lucky draw of an e-commerce company. The complainant was not too eager to buy this claim. When he dug deeper, the caller said that the complainant had recently shopped on this site and so he had won a voucher via lucky dip. When the complainant enquired how to redeem the voucher, the accused told the complainant the voucher amount will be sent if the complainant pays the GST amount. The complainant agrees to pay the GST amount which was said to be Rs 1,22,800. The accused gave his account number details and then the complainant forwarded the amount. The accused later switched off their number and thus the complaint lost all the money."



CON JOBS

City police say there is an increase in cases where people are cheated on the pretext of being offered jobs. Many lose money to fake employers who extort money in the pretext of giving jobs. City police have shared a recent example where an unemployed young man was desperately searching for a job. He randomly received a message on his WhatsApp about an opening for a part-time job with a reputed e-commerce company. "When he contacted the listed phone number, the accused answered and introduced himself as a recruiter." The accused told the victim hiring process was very tough in the e-commerce company and he was lucky to be chose for it. The complaint states: "When I asked about the role, they told me I would be asked to complete a task online and I would receive double the money. I was asked to first deposit some money and then do data entry in an Excel sheet. Once the entry is done, our executives will contact you, they said, and provide returns that will be double the investment amount. I paid Rs 2, 31,695 via UPI and net banking and then did the data entry. However, I never received any call and lost all my money."

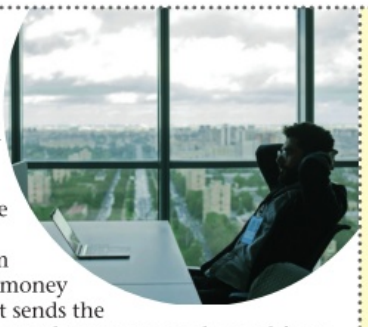
TRICKY INTERVIEW

City police say some job scams are taking it to the level of interviews. A police officer said, "An unemployed man who was searching for a job had logged on to a job recruitment site. The company personnel asked the man to share his resume. Then, the company executives called the youth and said he has been selected for a job interview but he has to pay a deposit of Rs 2, 29,597 to take part in it. Once the job is offered, the deposit amount will be returned with interest. The gullible youth who had paid the deposit amount tried to call the company executives but could never reach them. He then realised how he had lost his money."

TALL TALES

According to police, the accused try to weave stories to extort money. In a recent case, a social media influencer who had a number of followers received a message from one of his followers. The conversation continued for a few days when the follower introduced himself as a big fan of the influencer. Then the follower told the social media influencer that he wanted to share his story to which the influencer agreed. "The so-called fan said that a few days back his mother was grievously injured after falling from the stairs. Sadly, I have no money to admit her to the hospital. The influencer was shocked to listen to this story. The follower said that it would be great if he can pay Rs 50,000 immediately. An unsuspecting fan paid the amount immediately. Since then the influencer was trying to reach the fan asking about his mother's health and also requesting him to repay his amount. But, there has been no reply," said a officer.

EMAIL SPAM



There have been incidents of people losing money after placing orders. A police officer said, "The complainant, a general manager, had as colleague who started a new company that was into import and export with Chinese companies. The complainant on February 21 had sent a delivery order via email. The Chinese fim asks the complainant to pay 30% of the money as advance for delivery. The complainant sends the money via SWIFT. On June 9, 2022, the complainant received a mail from the company that they need to pay the remaining 70% of the amount. A reminder mail was sent a few days later. The complainant paid Rs 1, 25, 90,533 via SWIFT on July 2. Getting no response, he filed a police complaint. When the police probed, it was found to be a fictitious company."

SIM JAM

Beware of people fake SIM cards or fake service requests for suspension of SIM cards. A police officer said, "A Bengaluru resident had gone out of station for personal work. He was shocked to see that his SIM showed no service. When he returned to Bengaluru, he had the same issue. He visited a service station where the executives asked if he had filed any service request for suspension of SIM card. He then requests the executives to activate the duplicate SIM card. Later, he returned to his company and used net banking to disburse salaries to his employees. However, he was shocked to see that Rs 75 lakh from his account was swindled by miscreants.

MARRIAGE MIRAGE

There have been instances of people falling prey to vicious wedding proposals. A police officer said, "Recently, a young woman had registered herself on a matrimonial site. She met a guy with whom she started chatting. The guy said that he was in the UK and wanted to visit her. He said he was facing shortage of money and asked here to transfer Rs 21,900, which the woman did. She later realised she had been cheated."

BOSSING AROUND

One needs to be careful and check before transferring money. Citing a recent example, police said, "A city-based professional received an email that looked like a mail from his boss. The email is as if from the boss asking the employee to transfer Rs 10 lakh to his account number. After paying the money, the complainant called his boss to check if he had received the money and only then did he realise that a miscreant had taken him for a ride."

X-RATED FRAUD

Police are suggesting that people don't answer WhatsApp video calls from unknown numbers. "Recently, a man received a WhatsApp video call from an unknown number. When he received the call, he was shocked to see a nude woman on the other side. He disconnected the call immediately. Then, the caller sent a screenshot message and started blackmailing him demanding payment of Rs 5,000. She threatened him that if he failed to pay, she would send the photos to all his contacts," said the police.

NO POWER BACK-UP

A Bengalurean received a call from a stranger who introduced himself as a BESCOM official. The official said that the complainant had pending dues. He asked him to download the team viewer app and pay Rs 100 as a token amount. The accused hacked the account number and password and swindled Rs 10 lakh from the complainant's account. Police said that these kinds of complaints are seen across the country. Even BESCOM had recently issued advertisements in the media asking people to be wary of such fake calls.

DKS goes to HC against CBI; notice to agency

KPCC president DK Shivakumar has approached the High Court of Karnataka seeking quashing of an FIR filed against him by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Justice Siddappa Sunil Dutt Yadav who heard the petition on Monday ordered notice to the CBI.

Senior counsels BV Acharya and CH Jadhav who argued on behalf of Shivakumar submitted that the FIR filed on October 3, 2020 against him was illegal.

The petition says though Shivakumar is the sole accused in the case, all his family members' properties are shown as his.

"The expression 'family members' is a vague term. In the present case, neither there is number of family members mentioned nor their identity disclosed," the petition says.

"The entire FIR does not refer to the properties in the possession of the sole accused. On the other hand, the possession referred to as every stage is to the property of DK Shivakumar and his family members together," the petition says.

The petition says though Shivakumar is the sole accused in the case, all his family members' properties are shown as his

The argument, on his behalf, also posted out that sanction from the competent authority has not been obtained.

"The CBI has failed to follow the procedure mentioned in the CBI Manual for investigating into disproportionate assets cases. There is no A-B-C-D statement mentioned in the FIR to determine the income, assets and expenditure of the petitioner for the said check period," the petition says.

The Income Tax Department had conducted a search of Shivakumar's properties in Karnataka and Delhi on August 2, 2017. This case is pending before a Special Court in Bengaluru.

In August 2018, the Enforcement Directorate filed a case based on the IT Department's search. A charge sheet was filed in this case.

In September 2019, the ED wrote to the State government to take action against Shivakumar for money-laundering.

On September 25, 2019 the State government gave sanction to the CBI to proceed against Shivakumar. After a preliminary enquiry, the CBI filed the FIR on October 3, 2020.

This is now challenged before the High Court by Shivakumar.

'No question of India getting into stagflation or recession'

Finance Minister exudes confidence during debate on price rise at Lok Sabha

#NEW DELHI

Highlighting India's robust economic health despite the covid pandemic and geo-political situation, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said there is no question of India getting into stagflation or recession like other major economies of the world.

In her reply to the debate on price rise at the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman said, "We have never seen a pandemic of this kind. All of us were trying to make sure that people in our constituencies are given extra help. I recognise that everybody -MPs and state governments have played their role. Otherwise, India would not be where it is compared to the rest of the world."

"So, I fully credit the people of India for this. Even against adversity, we are able to stand up and be recognised as the fastest growing economy," she said.

The Finance Minister emphasised that due to the measures taken by the government, India is in a much better position than most countries.

"Repeatedly in the assessment of global agencies, India remains the fastest growing economy in the assessment of global agencies. This House irrespective of the party should feel proud of the country and its people. State governments have helped," she stated in the Lok Sabha.

Referring to a survey, Sitharaman said there is zero possibility of India getting into recession.

Sitharaman said the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the US fell 0.9 per cent in the second quarter following a 1.6 per cent decline in the first quarter. "They start it calling an unofficial recession. There is no question of India getting into recession or stagflation," said the Minister.

"Pandemic, second wave, Omicron, Russia-Ukraine (war), even today largest supply components in China are under lockdown. In spite of that, we have held inflation well within 7 per cent or below. That has to be recognised," she told Lok Sabha.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman replies during a discussion on price rise in Lok Sabha on Monday

"We have never seen a pandemic of this kind. All of us were trying to make sure that people in our constituencies are given extra help. I recognise that everybody -MPs and state governments have played their role

–Nirmala Sitharaman

NATION

She further said, "4,000 banks in China are reported to be going bankrupt. In India, the gross NPAs (Non-Performing Assets) of scheduled commercial banks is at a 5-years low of 5.9 per cent in 2022. So our NPAs are improving. The government debt to GDP Ratio of many countries is in triple digits including Japan, Greece, Bhutan, Singapore, the US, Portugal, Spain, France, Sri Lanka and Canada. But the central government very consciously controlled its debt and it is at 56.29 per cent of the GDP at the end of 2021-22 compared to the 59.9 per cent revised estimate that year."

According to IMF data, Sitharaman said the general debt to GDP ratio is 86.9 per cent including the Centre and the state.

In July 2022, the Minister said the country has garnered the second highest level ever since the introduction of the GST which is 1.49 lakh crore. "In April 2022, it was 1.67 lakh crore which was the highest we reached. This is the fifth consecutive month that collections have been above Rs 1.4 Lakh crores," she said.

Quoting former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan, she said, "On Saturday, Raghuram Rajan said that 'RBI has done a good job in increasing foreign exchange reserve in India, insulating India from problems being faced by neighbouring countries such as Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"Differentiating India from its vulnerable neighbours, Raghuram Rajan further added that 'New Delhi is less indebted', calling it a good sign, the Minister said.

Amid Sitharaman's reply to the debate on price rise, Congress members walk out from Lok Sabha. **–ANI**

Tree census delay creates dilemma

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has received the proposal, it is yet to be approved as the fund requirements have also been revised in the final version.

"The proposal has reached us and the permission for the MoU is pending before the commissioner. The last proposal submitted by the varsity was three months ago. It had a funding requirement of Rs 4.5 crore. However, the revised proposal has quoted the requirement of Rs 5.5 crore for the survey. Since the funding amount has been revised, it has to be reapproved," said a BBMP official.

The IT cell of the Palike is also working on an app to record the findings of the survey. However, the same has not been intimated to the GKVK team.

The varsity has decided to hire 30 PhD students for the project. The trees will be geo-tagged, the age and species will be noted, canopy area and girth will be calculated

"We have submitted the revised proposal as per their request. I am not aware if the MoU will be signed with us or if BBMP will look for an alternative. We have not heard from them yet. We have developed a scientific model for the census; we were planning to take help from a software company to develop the app. The app should be developed as per the format of our scientific model. The census objective should be to prepare a scientific database that can be used by other organisations and researchers in the future too," said Dr Rajendra Prasad, vice chancellor, GKVK.

The varsity has decided to hire 30 PhD students for the project. The trees will be geo-tagged, the age and species will be noted, canopy area and girth will be calculated, and suggestions on location and area-specific tree species plantation will be furnished. However, the delay is keeping the team on its toes.

"Rainy days will begin in August and conducting the survey will become difficult. Moreover, we have hired PhD students for the project; if they move out due to the delay, we will be short of resources," said the source.

Battery low: 'EVs a hazard too'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Transport Corporation (BMTC) added 90 electric buses to its fleet. According to reports, the government body is planning to replace its entire fleet with electric buses by 2030.

Though the move was appreciated by commuters and environmental activists alike, it brings more responsibility for the safe disposal or recycling of expired batteries.

BM asked BMTC chief mechanical engineer MN Srinivas how the public transport body is going to dispose of and replace batteries when the time comes. According to Srinivas, the responsibility of recycling and disposing of the batteries lies with the owners of the vehicles. "We operate the electric buses under a gross cost contract (lease) model. This means that we hire and pay for the buses by the distance (kilometres travelled). Responsibilities like maintenance, battery disposal, etc lie with the owner of the buses. It is not our responsibility."

The BMTC official said that out of the 90 electric buses, currently, 85 are operational. "After August 15, we will start operating 75 more 12-metre-long electric buses. Currently, the operational ones are all 9-metre vehicles," he added.

Experts said with an increasing number of electric vehicles on the road, the risk of toxic landfills also increases. "Authorities cannot shrug off responsibility just like that. The environment is everybody's concern; it affects everyone. BMTC is a government agency and should take active responsibility for its fleet," Dr Reddy added.

Increase in number of Electric Vehicles puts pressure on landfills too

Reddy suggested that the battery sellers and manufacturers give some kind of exchange concession to the customers in order to promote the recycling of e-waste: "Recycling is a must. What the companies can do is provide some concession to the people who exchange a new battery for an expired one. They can then recycle used batteries. It will be good for the environment and it is an economical option as well... The metals used in the batteries are also rare heavy metals. There is a limited amount of these on the earth; gathering these elements requires deep mining. So if we reuse them, it will also be sustainable."

As per the batteries (management and handling) rules, it is the responsibility of the consumer that the batteries are not disposed of in any other manner than depositing it with designated facilities like a registered recycler or a manufacturer/dealer.

Raju N, an e-waste recycler from Bengaluru, told BM that the process of recycling electric car batteries is a long one. "It is a long and time-consuming process. We dismantle the battery and collect lithium, cobalt, magnesium, etc... As per the rules, once the battery has expired it can only be stored for up to 180 days. It will have to be safely disposed of thereafter."

Research has found that if e-waste isn't managed properly, it can be a threat to people's physical wellbeing. Inhaling toxic substances like lead, cadmium, chromium and flame-retardant plastics can damage the brain, nervous system, lungs, kidneys and reproductive system.

HEALTH TIP: With a low-calorie count, cucumber seeds can do wonders if you are trying to lose weight

Using tomato juice on your skin can help reduce acne and inflammation

BangaloreMirror 9
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Manage your waste

Some steps your family and you can take to ensure your contribution to landfills is minimal

We all are aware of the amount of waste we leave in the wake of our regular human activities.

Did you know that 62 Million Tonnes of garbage is produced every day in India? These statistics by Down To Earth are a shocker. I turned around, looked into my home and wondered how much waste I contributed to this. Out of this, 5.6 million tonnes are plastic waste, 0.17 million tonnes are bio-medical waste, 7.90 million tonnes are hazardous waste and 15 lakh tonnes are e-waste.

One Sunday afternoon, as a family, we decided to self-reflect on what our lives would be with a little less ordering in, limiting e-waste, and opting for a minimalist life. Although, there is one thought - Why are we not concerned about the world we leave behind for our kids to use and live in? They don't have an option, there is no Planet B.

In a world where awareness programs on eliminating single-use plastic and recycling our waste are in full throttle, why are we scared to implement them in our everyday lives? I know what you are thinking. "How is it going to change for the world, if I-an individual takes the right step? Is that enough?"

> **It is very important to talk to children about the damage we have done to our planet and what can be done to reverse it**

The answer is yes. Every single one of us counts. Every small action we do counts. Every young mind we inspire counts!

Let me share some steps I have adopted in our family. I know I need to spread the world, and hence, we always have expert conversations about zero waste living at Kidsstoppress.com.

Carry your own bottle

You will always spot me with my bottle in almost every work desk/travel/meeting! I just can't step out anywhere without them. Pack one in your bag today. It's a lot more hygienic, easier, and eco-friendly than buying a single-use plastic bottle and dumping it everywhere you go. Opt for glass/copper or steel bottles. Get one for your kids too and watch their commitment. I learnt a lot from my girls!

Start Right In The Morning

Start with the first thing you pick up in the morning- your toothbrush. It is reported that over 4.7 billion plastic toothbrushes are found in landfills every year. How hard is it to make the switch to simple and effective bamboo toothbrushes for everyone in the family? Think about it.

Purchase Wisely

Whether you order online or purchase from the local supermarket, be a smart consumer. For every small pack that you order, you would be throwing out that many plastic covers that pack the same. Remember as kids, how we saw our moms buy in bulk and store them right? Adopt those simple practices to eliminate frequent and small-size packs.

Eat The Right Way

Be it your dinner plates or your toddler's first plate to try out those finger foods, go green. Open the stack of silverware your family gifted you. Or steel works too. Ditch the fancy melamine, and BPA-free plastic that looks enticing for your kids. All that glitters, isn't gold.

Say Bye-bye To Straws

Be it having your favourite milkshake or that healthy tender coconut down the road, carry your own steel straw in your bag, everywhere you go. There are plenty available in the market. Over 8.3 billion plastic straws are used and thrown every year- this way, you will be doing your bit to save the planet.

Have The Conversation With Your Kids

When you start taking these steps in your daily life, your kids are sure to ask you a lot of questions and follow suit. Use this opportunity to talk to them about how much damage we are collectively doing to the Earth and what we could do instead.

Take the initiative today. Help spread the word. Raise a budding eco-warrior in your homes.

—Mansi Zaveri, Founder & CEO of kidsstoppress.com.

All problems solved

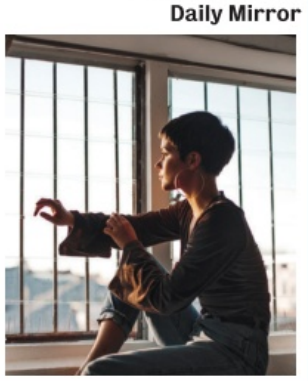
Dear Coleen

Recently, my partner asked me to move in with him, but it would mean relocating about 30 miles away. I own my own place and live alone, but I stay at his place a lot.
My main problem is, he has an ex-wife and a child, and it can be a challenging situation at times, as the divorce was messy.
At least at the moment I can retreat to my own place when I want to and pick and choose when I stay at his.
I'm worried he'll think I'm not committed if I say no, but I'm just not sure about it yet - it feels like a big step. Am I overthinking it and will it damage the relationship if I keep my own place?

COLEEN SAYS

If you have some doubts or don't feel ready, then don't agree to moving in with him. It's that simple. However, I think you should talk to him about why you've made your decision and what your reservations are.
You could agree to revisit the idea down the line, maybe when the situation with his ex is better and more time has passed since their divorce.
But if you feel he's still too involved with her or you're struggling with the stepparent role, then it's important to discuss these things.
Nothing will change unless you speak up.
And if you do move in with him, it might be wise to let your place rather than sell it, so you have somewhere to go back to if things don't work out.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror



MIRRORLIGHTS

Five ideas to stay sassy and stylish this monsoon

Monsoon, the season of love, the festival of clouds, the time when a hot cup of coffee and even hotter fritters are required! But it's not all roses when the rain-gods shower us with their blessing.

Monsoon, according to die-hard fashionistas, throws their styling plans for a loop. Puddles of water can get all over our clothes, and an unexpected storm can strike when you least expect it!

Here are some quick fix solutions tailor-made to make this monsoon a fashion fiesta:

Under your umbrella!: Rather than choosing the stereotypical dull and dark shades, why not explore some polka-dotted pretties, multicoloured marvels and custom-made graphic covers?

There's a whole new world to explore while picking up an umbrella.

Shoe them who's boss! : If it's the rainy season, one must be on their toes. Black is often the 'go-to' colour and flip-flops or sandals are often the 'go-to' footwear.

Maybe it's time our shoe selections see a refreshing change. Cool and comfy clogs, ravishing all-season shoes or bold and bright boots might just be the new lease of fashion your legs needed.

Bag to basics :Chic and suave rain-friendly bags are now the in thing for both work and pleasure.

May it be transparent backpacks or cute little sling bags, there is no dearth to style with these snazzy wonders.

Find your 'better scarf': Scarves are the most underrated styling accessories for monsoon season. They not only act as protective headgear during light showers but also stand out as a great fashion statement.

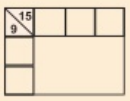
From vibrant and vivacious shades to subtle and simmering hues, there's an ocean's worth of options to choose from that perfectly suit your taste. **—IANS**

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

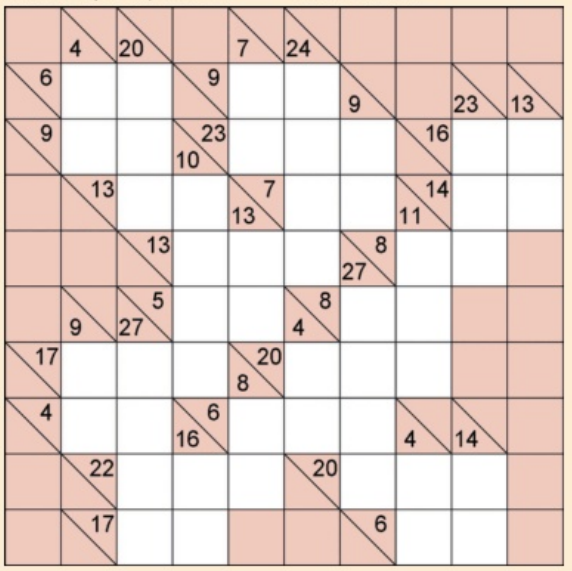
10% of x more than x is what % less than 20% of 2x less than 2x.
x = ?

Kakuro

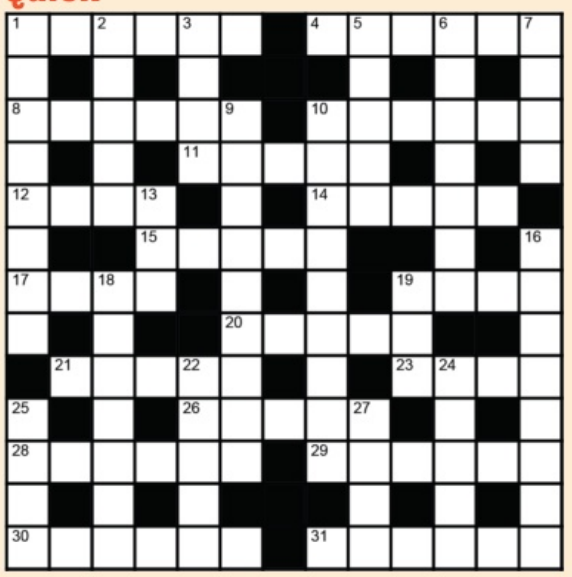
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Parade ostentatiously (6)
4 Aggregates (6)
8 Egyptian Christian church (6)
10 Connected (6)
11 Raid, incursion (5)
12 Indolently (4)
14 24 ___ gold : pure gold? (5)
15 Ham it up (5)
17 Dozes or slumbers (4)
19 U.S. State, for short (1,3)
20 Vacuous (5)
21 Bangalore is divided into 198 ____ (5)
23 Ring slowly (4)
26 Neural networks (5)
28 Length of time (6)
29 Acquiesce (6)
30 Sewing tool (6)
31 The capital of Iran (6)

DOWN

1 Groups within groups in politics, etc (8)
2 Dismay greatly (5)
3 A naive person (4)
5 Bhubaneshwar lingo (5)
6 Ungraceful or unpolished (7)
7 Fizzy drink (4)
9 Established a settlement or a society (9)
10 Bruises, injures or mangles (9)
13 An affirmative reply (3)
16 Bony framework (8)
18 American plain (7)
19 Clique or small group (3)
22 Slobber (5)
24 An abalone? (5)
25 Turn round quickly (4)
27 Certain (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS U

SHGGLOHHX UI Q MGQEK OSKVK ZSKL MGQEK LHN NPXKV EHPZVQEZ UPIZKQX HJ NPXKV HRIKVAQZUHP.

Linemaro

I may be a physics major, but I am no Bohr

Mindchow

God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today. Have you used one to say "thank you?"

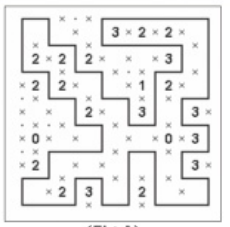
Joke of the day

AVOIDABLE (uh-voy'-duh-buhl'): What a bullfighter tries to do

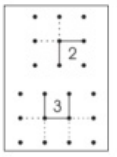
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

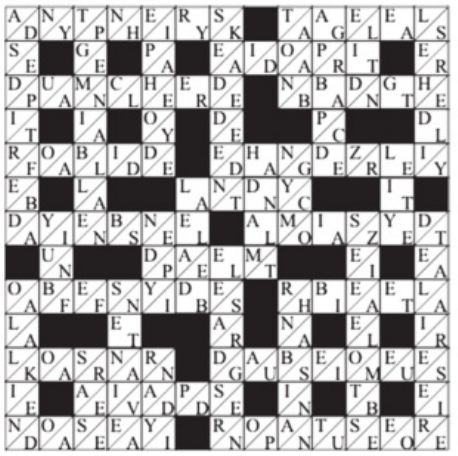


(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

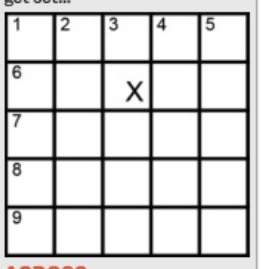
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

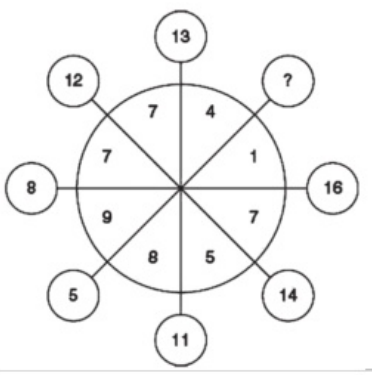
1 Samoa; 6 Sec ox;
7 Is col; 8 Nu Ale;
9 Girth

DOWN

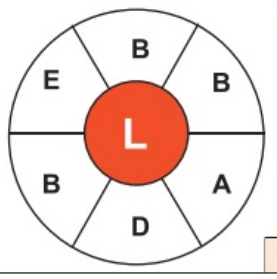
1 Cur Co; 2 I loom;
3 Gin Ax; 4 Shale;
5 Tasse

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **12** Good; **14** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2		5	6		8			
			2					9
	7				3	6		
				5		9		
5	6	3				8	1	7
		4		3				
		7	5				4	
4					2			
			7		9	5		2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6
2 3 9 9

Medium = 1
2 5 5 9

Hard = 3
2 7 9 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Boy is moved. 2. Sweater is shorter. 3. Window is lower. 4. Woman is taller. 5. Elbow patch is added. 6. Bush is not as tall.

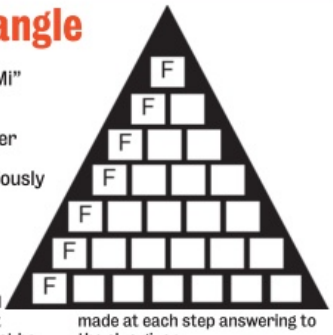
Riddler

Take the given words, and by moving a single letter from one word to the other, make a pair of synonyms, or near synonyms. For example, given: Boast–Hip, move the 's' from 'Boast' to 'Hip' creating two synonyms: Boat–Ship.

1. Burn–Bead
2. Rid–Tripe
3. Grove–Rout
4. Charm–Rush
5. Cream–Sweep

Alpha triangle

1 Farad, abbr.
2 A note to follow "Mi"
3 Obese
4 Speedy
5 Gounod's soul seller
6 Imperfections
7 Parades ostentatiously

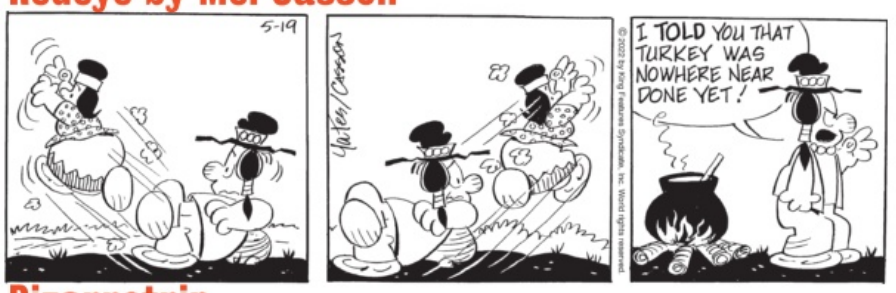


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

SPRING WALKS INTO A BAR:
HI! I'M PETEY THE TICK!
I'M HERMAN. NICE TO MEET YOU
WANNA CHEW THE FAT?
NAH, I'D RATHER SUCK ON YOUR ARM
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Hart of the city

Crankshaft

OKAY... I'M ALMOST READY TO SIGHT MY FIRST GARDEN ROW.
JUST ONE LAST ADJUSTMENT...
TO ALLOW FOR THE CURVATURE OF THE EARTH.
BATIUK & DAVIS crankshaftcomic.com/books
5-26

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You may feel dull today, you may feel some negative vibrations around you. Try to focus on the good things in life. You may not give your best output in your work, which may lead to confusion. Investments related to business or buying new asset are advised to be postpone. You are advised to postpone to start new business for a while. People with a job may plan for some short term course or higher education.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Try to avoid hurry and drive safe. With the blessing of the stars, you solve your problems. You will be in a more romantic mood today that will bring harmony in domestic life. You may expect some profits in partnerships. Love birds may plan to get marry soon. There may be some good news on the way for students.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may feel courageous and energetic, which will show in your way of working. You may be more focused today. You are likely to have some short travel which may build you social network. You advised to avoid harsh conversations with your spouse, it disharmony in domestic life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may spend money for your family, which might affect your financial health. You are advised to avoid spending money on worthless things. You are advised to read documents twice before signing them. It is advised to control your straightforward nature to maintain harmony in your domestic and professional life. Dentists, motivational speakers, call centre executives may do better in their jobs today.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today is a good and harmonious day. You may get good result with a less effort. Your losses will convert into profits with the help of your wisdom. You may plan to upgrade yourself by doing some academics course. You may donate some amount to a religious place or charity. You may also help to a person in need. Some investment into intellectual asset is likely.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel dull, you may have some health issues. Chronic disease may reappear. You are advised to avoid rash driving. You advised to avoid conflicts with your business partner. Avoid making important decisions in terms of business. Investments in business or work is advised to postpone. With the blessings from elders, by the late evening things may be more under control.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You are blessed by your destiny today, your postponed projects may be started now. With the help of elder's blessings messy situation will now be under your control. Disputes between family members may likely to be resolved which may increase in domestic harmony. Your creativity may get enhanced.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today will a good day. You will feel more enthusiastic today. Greater gains in business and work are likely. Your boss may be supportive, you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotion. You may visit a religious place. Try not to be rude or arrogant to your lover.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you are blessed by moon. Postponed projects are likely to restart now. You may have elder's blessings, which may help you to come out of a bad situation. Expect domestic harmony. Disputes with family members are likely to be resolved.

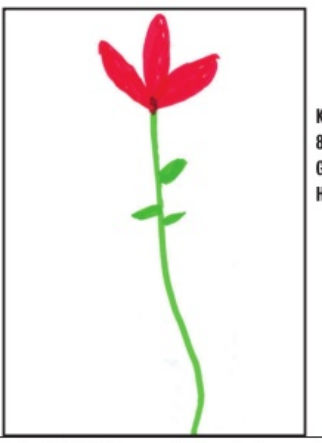
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you may feel dull. You will over work and are likely to be tired mentally. You may try to ignore your responsibilities. Lack of patience will make you arrogant. It may affect your professional and personal life. There may be some arguments with your spouse, you are advised to tackle the situation patiently.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Time is on your side today. You may get ample of opportunities. You may create new contacts. Your wisdom may help you to implement new creative plans in your work. Plans of renovating your home or office are likely to be mad. Your investments in fixed assets may give profits.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may dedicate your time to do something creative. You may plan to rebuild your house or work place. Your creativity and in depth knowledge may help you to implement your plan. You may interact with new persons at your work place. Job seeker may get new job. Students are advised to avoid speculation in their studies.

KIDZONE

Anu Vasanappa Rathod, 15 Years, Vijaya High School



Kaushvi, 8 Years, Greenwood High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
10% of x+x = 110·x/100
and 2x-20% of 2x =
80·2x/100
160x/100-110x/100
= 50x/100
%=(50x/100)/(160x/100)·100
= 5·100/16 = 6.25·5 = 31.25%
less

QUOTE UNCODE
Hollywood is a place where they place you under contract instead of under observation.

FAST FIVE

O	M	A	S	A
C	O	X	E	S
C	O	I	L	S
U	L	N	A	E
R	I	G	H	T

RIDDLER
1. Bun – Bread,
2. Ride – Trip,
3. Groove – Rut,
4. Harm – Crush,
5. Scream – Weep

STRIKE OUT

A	N	T	H	E	R	S		T	A	L	E	S		
S	E		P		A	D	A	P	T		E			
P	U	N	C	H	E	D		B	A	D	G	E		
I		A	O		D			C			D			
R	A	B	I	D		E	A	G	E	R	L	Y		
E		L		A	N	D	Y		I					
D	I	E	S	E	L		A	M	A	Z	E	D		
A		T			E									
O	F	F	S	I	D	E		R	I	A	T	A		
A		T		A		L		R						
K	O	R	A	N		D	U	B	I	O	U	S		
E		E	V	A	D	E		I		T		I		
S	E		P		A	D	A	P	T		E			
N	O	S	E	Y		N	O	N	U	S	E	R		

QUICK

F	L	A	U	N	T		T	O	T	A	L	S		
I		P		A		R		W		O				
T		A	F	O	R	A	Y		W		A			
C	O	P	T	I	C		L	I	N	K	E	D		
T		A		R				O						
I	D	L	Y		L	C	A	R	A	T		S		
O		E	M	O	T	E		R				S		
N	A	P	S		N		R		S	D	A	K		
S		I		I	N	A	N	E				E		
W	A	R	D	S		T		T	O	L	L			
S		I		R	E	T	E	S		R		E		
P	E	R	I	O	D		S	U	B	M	I	T		
I		I		O			R		E			O		
A	N	T	H	E	R	A	N		T	E	H	R		
N	E	E	D	L	E		T	E	H	R	A	N		

ALPHA TRIANGLE
17: it is the sum of the two digits (9 + 8) in the quadrant directly opposite;

BULL'S EYE
able, babble, BABBLED, bald, bale, bleb, BLABBED, blade, bled, dabble, dale, deal, lade, lead

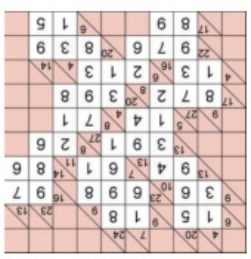
SUDOKU

2	4	5	6	9	8	1	7	3
6	3	1	2	7	5	4	9	8
8	7	9	4	1	3	6	2	5
7	8	2	1	5	6	9	3	4
5	6	3	9	2	4	8	1	7
4	5	6	3	8	2	7	9	1
9	2	7	5	6	1	3	4	8
1	9	4	8	3	7	2	5	6
3	1	8	7	4	9	5	6	2

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 – 9 + 9 x 3 = 6
Medium
9 – 5 + 2 – 5 = 1
Hard
2 + 7 / 9 x 3 = 3

KAKURO



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Samyuktha to undergo surgery for ligament tear–
Actress Samyuktha Hegde, who sustained a ligament tear while shooting for a stunt sequence for the Kannada film 'Kreem', will undergo a surgery to recover from the injury

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'Please don't boycott my film'

Ahead of the release of Aamir Khan's 'Laal Singh Chaddha', the film triggered controversy after "#BoycottLaalSinghChaddha" started trending on Twitter.

Apparently, some Twitter users went through the archives and dug up Aamir's controversial "India's growing intolerance" statement and circulated it on the micro-blogging site. Reacting to the boycott trend, Aamir while speaking to Mumbai reporters requested people to watch his film.

"That Boycott Bollywood... Boycott Aamir Khan... Boycott Laal Singh Chaddha... I feel sad also because a lot of people who are saying this in their hearts believe I am someone who doesn't like India... In their hearts they believe that... And that's quite untrue," Aamir quoted as a saying.

"I really love the country... That's how I am. It is rather unfortunate if some people feel that way.I want to assure everyone that it's not the case so please don't boycott my films, please watch my films," he pleaded. **ANI**

Being a sex symbol is Milind's USP

Milind Soman is undoubtedly one of the fittest and good-looking actors we have in Bollywood. He recently opened up about being a sex symbol in the industry.

In an interview with a news portal, Milind revealed that he is not at all uncomfortable being a sex symbol. In fact, the actor called it his USP. According to him, if he is uncomfortable with being a sex symbol, and being objectified, which he has been, right from the beginning of his career, then he shouldn't be in this business. The actor added that he recently was a part of a music video, a song called 'Shringaar'. Milind revealed that he has no idea why they called him for the song. It is an objectification of the male persona. According to him, they could have taken someone in their twenties as opposed to him who is in his fifties.

The actor also spilled the beans on his nude photoshoot on the beach on his 50th birthday. He didn't think it was a big deal. Milind shared that when he did his first nude photoshoot, it was shot in Delhi—in the forest—and he was just walking around naked as they took pictures. He said some people may object, and some people may appreciate it.

'I WAS MADE TO FEEL WORTHLESS'

Not everything came to her on a platter, reveals actor Janhvi Kapoor

Janhvi Kapoor has talked about how initially in her acting career the Bollywood actress was made to feel that she got everything on a platter and got things she does not deserve.

Recalling the same, Jahnvi in B4U podcast 'Hear It Here with' Suchitra Pillai and Sudhi Sachdev, said: "During 'Dhadak' and 'Gunjan', I have been made to feel that I got everything on a platter, and I got things I don't deserve, which means that I am technically worthless, and I am getting opportunities because of the work my parents have done."

"At the same time, I also felt an overwhelming respect and love for my parents, and I am being given love and work because of that. But the truth is that I love acting and I live for it. I work my a*& off to give it back to them for what they have done for me, and because I am doing what I do because of their love. And then I realised that what I can do is to enjoy my work."

The daughter of late veteran actress Sridevi and producer Boney Kapoor added: "I do have respect for the fact that other people have lost out on the opportunity. But no thanks. I realised that what I can do is to make sure that I can give it more than my best and my everything. I don't know about the beauty and talent I have, that you mention, but I do I know about the hard work I have put in for all my films."

Janhvi also spoke about her latest release 'Good Luck Jerry' and how she worked on her diction.

"I started training for my diction and dialect, and there is a specific rhythm to the Bihari accent and it's so sweet. Once you tap into the rhythm it's difficult to get out of it. And then I was playing a girl from Bihar, in Punjab, amongst a gang, and I was the only girl in a group of thugs. They were all in character, and most technicians were also male."

She added: "They did make me comfortable, but it does feel funny because there are these very sweaty groups of men whose job is to intimidate you. I was not allowed to go back into the van because my character never had such privileges. I suddenly realised that we actors have such privileges when everyone including the light dadas and others are sweating it out on the set."

—IANS